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NSC BRIEFING

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1 August 1960

SOUTH KOREA

- I. According to early press reports rioting which broke out in the provinces during South Korea's 29 July elections has spread to Seoul and may delay the opening of parliament, scheduled for 15 August.
- A. Disturbances led by students protesting alleged election violations.
1. Believe most disturbances due student to animosity against likely election/persons identified with Rhee regime.
- B. Police are using tear-gas in attempts to restore order.
- C. Election officials have recommended holding new elections on 13 August in 13 out of 233 districts where vote counting stopped due to disorders.
- II. Former Vice President Chang Myon's conservative pro-American Democratic party has swept the 29 July South Korean parliamentary elections, as expected.
- A. According to incomplete returns, ex-president Rhee's discredited Liberals won only about 10 seats in the 233 seat lower house and independents and minor party candidates about 43.
- B. The new left-of-center Social Masses party with over 100 candidates running has won only about four seats.
- C. The less important upper house will probably be controlled by the Democrats also.

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- III. Overwhelming Democratic victory likely to be followed by factional struggle for premiership and largely ceremonial presidency, possibly leading to a party split.
- A. Victorious democratic candidates appear to be about evenly divided between pro- and anti-Chang factions.
  - B. Chang's opponents may hope to form a government of their own with support of independents and former Rhee elements.
    - 1. Anti-Chang factionists allegedly have been receiving strong financial support from economic interests that hope to retain the privileged position they had under the old regime.
  - C. However, factions may try to avoid an open split by dividing offices between them.

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